



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Dan Wolford, Chairman
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 22, 2012

TO: Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel, Highly Migratory Species Management Team, and Interested Persons

FROM: Dr. Kit Dahl, Staff Officer for Highly Migratory Species

SUBJECT: November 2012 Council Meeting

The November Council meeting takes place November 3-7 at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa Hotel in Costa Mesa, California. The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) begins meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 3 and continues meeting on Sunday. The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) meets on Sunday, November 4 beginning at 8:00 a.m. There is a single HMS topic, Agenda Item J.1.a, scheduled first thing Monday, November 5.

The Situation Summary for Agenda Item J.1 describes two general topics: developments with respect to the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty and Council recommendations for the upcoming Ninth Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) meeting. In addition, the situation summary references the extraordinary meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission scheduled for October 24-25. At this time a bilateral meeting to discuss the U.S.-Canada albacore treaty has not been scheduled. The Council may make recommendations to the U.S. delegation to the WCPFC on a number of issues that are likely to be discussed at the Commission meeting. In addition, the Permanent Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission is meeting October 25-26. Relevant information and recommendations from that Committee will be made available at the Council meeting.

In addition to the attachments to the situation summary, advisory body members may want to review the following selected delegation proposals from the Eighth Technical and Compliance Committee Meeting. All TCC material is available at <http://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/2012/8th-Regular-Session-Technical-and-Compliance-Committee>

Whale Sharks

- WCPFC-TCC8-2012-DP04: Explanatory Note on Australia's Proposal to address impacts of purse seine fishing on Whale Sharks
- WCPFC-TCC8-2012-DP05: Australia's Proposal to address impacts of purse seine

fishing on Whale Sharks

Port State Measures

- WCPFC-TCC8-2012-DP12: Explanatory Note: European Union Proposal for a CMM on WCPFC Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port
- WCPFC-TCC8-2012-DP13: European Union Proposal for a CMM on WCPFC Scheme for Minimum Standards For Inspection In Port

Conservation and Management

- WCPFC-TCC8-2012-DP14: Explanatory Note: European Union Proposal for a Conservation and Management Measure on a WCPFC Yellowfin, Bigeye And Skipjack Tunas and Swordfish Catch Certification Scheme
- WCPFC-TCC8-2012-DP15: European Union Proposal for a Conservation and Management Measure on a WCPFC Yellowfin, Bigeye And Skipjack Tunas and Swordfish Catch Certification Scheme
- WCPFC-TCC8-2012-DP10: Japan: Conceptual Proposal on Purse Seine Management in WCPO

On Saturday, November 3 the HMSMT will discuss developing a proposal to modify the Pacific Leatherback Conservation Area. In March the Council directed the HMSMT in consultation with the HMSAS to determine if any changes can be made to the closure dates for, or the southern boundary of, the Pacific Leatherback Conservation Area (PLCA) in order to enhance fishing opportunity in the California drift gillnet fishery. Members of the HMSMT will meet with the HMSAS on Sunday morning to review the previous day's discussion and seek input from HMSAS members on proposal development.

Two informational reports are included in this mailing. The first is a Federal Register notice announcing NMFS's intent to consider listing the northeast Pacific population of great white shark under the Endangered Species Act. The great white shark is listed as a prohibited species in the HMS FMP. The second informational report is the Billfish Conservation Act of 2012. This law prohibits the sale of a defined list of billfish caught by U.S. vessels except for specific exemptions for the State of Hawaii and the Pacific Insular Areas.

I have also attached the briefing materials for Agenda Item K.1., on the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan, and Agenda Item K.2, on the implementation of the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment, scheduled on the Council floor on Tuesday November 6. As indicated on your agendas, a joint briefing on these topics is scheduled on Sunday.

As usual, materials for Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning (Agenda Item F.4) are included to inform committees on planning for future meetings.

Paper copies of referenced briefing materials are enclosed. In addition, you may also obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/briefing-books/>. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website, as they become available after distribution of the briefing book.

Thanks for your continued participation and see you in Costa Mesa. If you have time for shopping, the nearby South Coast Plaza shopping center ranks near the top nationally in terms of sales volume, generating more than one billion dollars annually! That exceeds the \$597 million in revenue from west coast fisheries landings in 2011 (according to the PacFIN database).

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Enclosures:

1. HMSAS and HMSMT Meeting Agendas
2. Information Report 1: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; 90-Day Finding on Petitions to List the Northeastern Pacific Ocean Distinct Population Segment of Great White Shark as Threatened or Endangered Under the Endangered Species Act (77 FR 59582)
3. Informational Report 4: Billfish Conservation Act of 2012
4. Agenda Item A.4: Council Meeting Agenda
5. Agenda Item J.1: International Highly Migratory Species Management: Council Recommendations, Including U.S. Albacore Treaty and WCPFC9
6. Agenda Item K.1: Fishery Ecosystem Plan: Adopt Preliminary FEP for Public Review
7. Agenda Item K.2: Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Implementation Report: Information and Discussion
8. Agenda Item F.5: Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
9. Hotel-related Information
10. Council Roster

PFMC

10/16/12